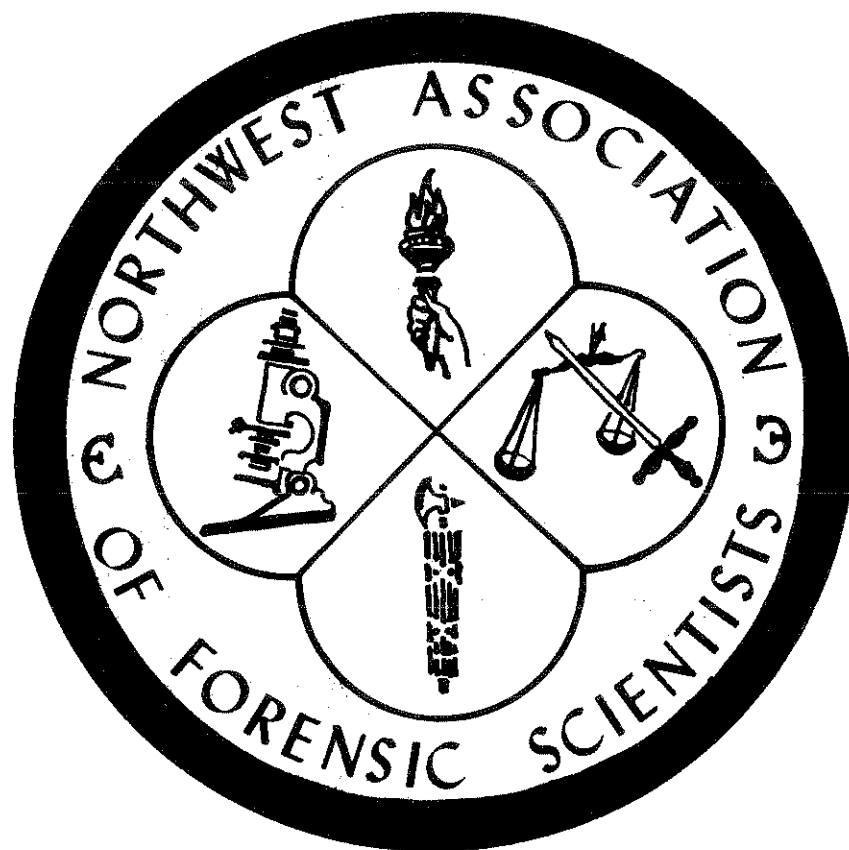


THE NEWSLETTER of



March 1985

Vol 11 No 1

NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS

Executive Committee

President Richard Brooke
 President Elect Wally Baker
 Secretary-Treasurer Lionel Tucker
 Executive Committee Member-at-Large Beth Carpenter
 Past President Don MacLaren

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Ethics Arnold Melnikoff
 Membership Robert Sager
 Publication George Matsuda
 Historical Brad Telyea
 Technical Advancement Mike Grubb
 Continuing Education Beth Carpenter

UPCOMING MEETING

Spring 1985

Joint Meeting with SWAFS

May 2, 3 & 4, 1985

Writer's Manor Hotel
Denver, Colorado

Contact

Kathy Brown
 Denver Police Dept.
 Forensic Lab
 1331 Cherokee
 Denver, CO 80204
 (303) 575-3627

Richard B. Lehmann
 Colorado Bureau of
 Investigations
 2002 S. Colorado Blvd.
 Denver, CO 80222
 (303) 759-1100

THE WEBER TEST
A Color Test for the Presence of Psilocin in Mushrooms

The popularity of hallucinogenic fungi has increased in the past few years. Along with the increased popularity, we see an increase in mushroom possession cases and mushroom buys by narcotics agents. Some of these mushrooms will be hallucinogenic, but many will be bogus. In the Weber State College Crime Lab, over the past three years, the ratio of controlled vs. non-controlled mushrooms has been about 50/50.

Those of you who work with identification of controlled mushrooms know that it is no simple task. There are several factors that make such identification difficult:

1. There are many varieties of mushrooms, literally thousands of different species, of which only a few are hallucinogenic and not all of these are in the same genus.

2. Even with fresh mushroom samples, genus and species identification can be a real challenge, unless one is well-versed in the identification and classification of mushrooms. When samples are submitted to the laboratory in a dried, crushed, and/or frozen state, botanical identification is almost impossible.

3. Psilocin and psilocybin are light and heat sensitive and can decompose very quickly if handled improperly.

4. Most labs use analytical methods to identify controlled mushrooms. These methods can be challenging when trying to identify the controlled components in hallucinogenic mushrooms.

Using a gas chromatograph to identify psilocybin and psilocin with an FID or hot wire detector can be very tricky. GC/MS is an excellent and quick procedure, but not all labs are fortunate enough to possess one. Sample clean-up and preparation for TLC, IR, or UV can take several hours. Because of these factors, much valuable lab time can be wasted on the analysis of bogus mushrooms.

At Weber State College Crime Lab, we have devised a simple color test to distinguish non-controlled mushroom samples in approximately two minutes. It is a preliminary test, and not designed as a complete analytical procedure. A negative test result, however, should eliminate any need for further testing.

The chemicals used react with psilocin, which is typically present in the hallucinogenic mushrooms in much smaller quantities than psilocybin. Some literature reports that there may be species of hallucinogenic mushrooms that contain only psilocybin, but, in our test, we have not found any "magic mushrooms" that do not contain at least some psilocin. This may be due to the fact that psilocybin hydrolyzes to psilocin very easily, and thus is usually present if psilocybin is present.

Over the past two years, the Weber State College Crime Lab has tested all mushroom samples that have been submitted, with very good results. In no case did a sample test negatively with the color test and subsequently show the presence of psilocin by TLC and IR.

Recently, the mushroom collection of Brigham Young University was tested with this color test (a total of 55 different species) as well as numerous unidentified species collected from our local environment, with no false positive or false negative results being received.

The procedure is a very simple one, consisting of a two-part chemical addition to a small fragment of a mushroom.

Step 1: Make fresh daily, a 0.1% solution of Fast Blue B or Diazo Blue B (o-dianisidine, tetrazotized) by dissolving .01 grams in 10ml distilled water. Two to three drops of this solution is added to a sample of mushroom, at room temperature. The solution will turn red if psilocin is present.

Step 2: One to two drops of concentrated hydrochloric acid is added to the (red) solution of mushroom sample and Fast Blue B reagent. In the presence of psilocin, the solution will change from red to blue in color.

If psilocin is not present, no color is obtained or, in a few incidents, a pink or orange color will appear with no change in the HCL addition. Where colors were obtained, they were not confused with those of a positive test for psilocin.

We, at Weber, feel that this is, and can be used as, a valid preliminary screening test for the presence of psilocin in mushrooms.

Thanks to B.Y.U. Botany Department for mushroom samples, as well as the article by John Kearns of the Spokane, Washington Lab on the "Isolation and Identification of Psilocin from Psilocybe Mushrooms".

Paper presented to the Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists: May 4, 1984 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho by Allen Steve Garrett, Steven R. Clemens, and James H. Gaskill.



WEBER STATE COLLEGE

LABORATORY OF
CRIMINALISTICS


OGDEN, UTAH 84408
801-626-6147

7 January 1984

Lt. G. K. Matsuda
Editor, NWAFS Newsletter
Oregon State Police
222 S. W. Pine Street
Portland,
Oregon 97204

Lt. Matsuda:

Since this paper was presented in May 1984 at Coeur d'Alene, there have been requests to our laboratory for a write-up of the procedure. We hope that you will see fit to publish this paper in the upcoming edition of the newsletter.


Kathleen T. Ledford, Criminalist

for James H. Gaskill, Lab Director

The OHSU School of Dentistry has established a Division of Forensic Studies to answer the need for quality training in forensic dentistry and related fields. The Division, under the Department of Pathology, offers two curricula - a postdoctoral academic program for holders of dental, medical or in special cases, science degrees, and a non-academic program for in-service police officers and others in the criminal justice system. The latter program is certified by the Oregon Board of Police Standards and Training. The fields of study include forensic anthropology and archaeology, forensic dentistry, forensic entomology, criminalistics, forensic pathology, forensic toxicology, and law and evidence.

Anyone wanting more information about either program should contact:

Dr. John Lundy
Director, Division of
Forensic Studies
Pathology Department, Dental School
Oregon Health Sciences University
611 S.W. Campus Drive
Portland, OR 97201
(503) 225-8904 (campus phone)
(503) 248-3746 (Medical Examiner's Office)



canadian society of forensic science la société canadienne des sciences judiciaires

FOUNDED FONDÉE 1953 INCORPORATED INCORPORÉE 1963

25 January 1985

ANNUAL MEETING of the CANADIAN SOCIETY OF FORENSIC SCIENCE jointly with the SOCIETY OF FORENSIC TOXICOLOGISTS and the AMERICAN SOCIETY OF QUESTIONED DOCUMENT EXAMINERS (the last one holding private sessions) will be held at the HYATT REGENCY HOTEL, MONTREAL, PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, from September 20-27, 1985.

There should be four days of scientific sessions and three days of workshops. Scientific papers are requested for presentation at this meeting: names of authors, titles and abstracts should be sent to the address below by June 1, 1985. For further information, please contact:

Executive Secretary
Canadian Society of Forensic Science
2660 Southvale Crescent, Suite 215
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1B 4W5

Phone: (613) 731-2096

*Recd
2-1-85
JHL*

Dear Editor:

The CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINALISTS announces the semi-annual seminar for Spring, 1985 to be held as follows:

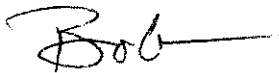
DATES: May 17, 18, 19

PLACE: HYATT REGENCY, OAKLAND, CA

CONTACT: CHESTER YOUNG, DENISE TORRISI
OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT
CRIMINALISTICS LABORATORY
455 Seventh St., Room 608
Oakland, CA 94607
(415) 273-3387

Please place this announcement in your next publication.

Thank you for your assistance.



Robert R. Ogle, Jr.
Public Relations Chairman

Dear Editor:

The CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINALISTS will hold the Fall 1985 Semi-annual seminar in October, 1985. Will you please place the following announcement in your next publication?

FALL SEMINAR, CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF
CRIMINALISTS

PLACE: NEW OTAMI HOTEL AND GARDEN,
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

DATES: OCTOBER 24-26, 1985

CONTACT: GREG MATHESON
Los Angeles Police Dept. Laboratory
150 North Los Angeles Street, Rm. 435
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: (213) 485-2535

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Very Truly Yours,



Robert R. Ogle, Jr.
CAC Public Relations Chairperson

Due to unavoidable circumstances the following packet containing the Registration form, Hotel Reservation form, Tentative Program and the Abstracts form for the Combined SWAFS - NWAFS Spring Meeting, May 2,3 and 4, 1985 was delayed in mailing until the very last week of March.

Let's have a super good turn out at the Denver joint meeting with our colleagues from the Southwestern Association of Forensic Scientists.

The Editor

The Oregon State Police Crime Laboratory System has one opening for a sworn Criminalist with no crime laboratory experience to ten years experience, the opening in the Portland Crime Laboratory. The position is for a generalist and includes field investigations. Salary commensurate with experience ranges from \$1709 to \$2237 a month plus 6% State paid retirement contribution and time and one half paid overtime. Salary figures expected to increase at least 5% on July 1, 1985.

Contact: Lt. George Matsuda, Training Officer
Oregon State Police Crime Laboratory Division
1111 S.W. 2cd, room 1201
Portland, Oregon 97204
(503) 229-5017

SWAFS

COMBINED MEETING SWAFS & NWAFS
 SPRING MEETING 1984
 DENVER, COLORADO MAY 2-4, 1985

NWAFS

COME TO SKI COUNTRY!!!

This combined meeting will be held at the Writer's Manor Hotel/Restaurant/Sports Center, 1730 South Colorado Boulevard, Denver. This ample meeting center is in Southeast Denver at the intersection of I-25 and South Colorado Boulevard. Easy access for both air and auto travelers. Meeting room rates are \$48 for single or double. For advance reservations call 1-800-525-8072 or send in the enclosed card.

REGISTRATION: Due with check by April 15, 1985.

Registration fee: \$40 for pre-registration.
 \$45 at the door.
 \$ 5 all workshops (NWAFS and SWAFS members).
 \$10 all workshops (NWAFS and SWAFS nonmembers).

Extra tickets: \$ 3.75 Breakfast
 \$ 9.00 Lunch
 \$20.00 Banquet

SCHEDULE:

Wednesday, May 1	6:00pm - 8:00pm	Board Meetings (separate rooms)
	6:00pm - 10:30pm	Hospitality Room
Thursday, May 2	8:00am - 9:00am	Continental Breakfast
	9:00am - 12:00N	Laser Applications Workshop (Lasers will be available) Walton Haralson and Paul Maliska
		Limited Enrollment 25
	9:00am - 12:00N	Genetic and Individual Differences in Sensitivity to Alcohol Workshop Colorado University, Boulder
	12:00N - 1:30pm	Luncheon
	1:30pm - 5:00pm	Nontechnical Computer Applications Workshop Perkin Elmer Instruments
	1:30pm - 5:00pm	Species Identification of Game Animal Blood and Meat Workshop Jim Wolfe - Alaska Abdalla Mardini - Quebec, Canada

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SCHEDULE: (contd.)

	6:00pm - 9:00pm	Professional Grooming Workshop (individual assessment) Judy Ruchstahl of Color Profiles, Ltd.
	6:00pm - 10:30pm	Hospitality Room
Friday, May 3	8:00am - 9:00am	Continental Breakfast
	9:00am - 12:00N	Technical Papers
	1:30pm - 4:00pm	Technical Papers
	4:00pm - 5:30pm	Business Meeting
	6:00pm - 7:00pm	Cocktail Hour
	7:00pm - 10:00pm	Banquet
		The banquet speaker will be Dr. John D. MacDonald, the well known criminologist. He will talk on The Psychology of Crimes and Criminals.
Saturday, May 4	8:00am - 9:00am	Continental Breakfast
	9:00am - 12:00N	Technical Papers To include the Lucas and Toole Serial Murders.

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RECREATION OR ENTERTAINMENT

IN AND AROUND DENVER AREA

We are looking forward to your attending the spring meeting of the Southwest Association of Forensic Scientists, and to your visit to Colorado. There are so many Denver area and mountain attractions to see so plan on spending a couple of extra days, if time permits, to take in all of Colorado's beauty.

Right in the downtown area alone and within walking distance are places of interest like the U.S. Mint (largest depository of gold bullion outside of Fort Knox), Denver Art Museum (one of worlds greatest collections of Native American Indian art works), Colorado Historical Society (museum showcasing Colorado history) and the Molly Brown House (heroine of the Titanic disaster) to name just a few.

For those of use who like to shop, the 16th Street Mall, Larimer Square and Cherry Creek Shopping Areas are but a few places that offer something for even the hardest to please. Venturing out a little from the downtown Denver area are places like the Coors Brewery in Golden, Heritage Square Artisan's Market and Buffalo Bill's Grave (top of Lookout Mountain) are sites not to be overlooked.

If your visit allows you to spend a few extra days in Colorado, there are beautiful mountains to view, and ski, depending on the weather, several old gold and silver mining towns to walk through, and hundreds of lakes, streams and creeks to spend a quiet and peaceful day by. All of this and more is waiting for your enjoyment.

More detailed information will be available at the registration table in May.

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COMBINED SWAFS - NWAFS
SPRING MEETING
MAY 1985

ABSTRACTS FOR PAPERS TO BE GIVEN AT THIS MAY 1985 MEETING MUST
BE SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING. THE DEADLINE FOR TITLES
AND ABSTRACTS IS APRIL 1, 1985. TITLES AND ABSTRACTS MUST BE SENT
TO:

KATHY BROWN
c/o DENVER POLICE DEPT
FORENSIC LAB
1331 CHEROKEE
DENVER, CO 80204
(303) 575-3627

RICHARD B. LEHMANN
c/o COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS
2002 S. COLORADO BLVD
DENVER, CO 80222
(303) 759-1100

NWAFS-SWAFS SPRING 1985 MEETING

NAME _____

AGENCY _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

TITLE _____

ABSTRACT _____


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The color scheme is in three parts: Gold meaning Science, Blue meaning Truth and Purple meaning Justice.

The four pictures of equal balance are The Scales of Justice, The Torch of Knowledge, The Microscope denoting Criminalistics or Forensic Science and The Fasces, the Symbol of Authority.

The Association's name is part of the Logo and the pharmaceutical symbol  denotes the Association as having scruples.

The Editor

THE NEWSLETTER

A Newsletter published by the Association dedicated to the:

1. encouragement of the exchange of ideas and information within the field of forensic sciences through improving contacts between persons and laboratories engaged in the forensic sciences;
2. stimulation of research and the development of new and/or improved techniques; and
3. promotion of the improvement of professional expertise of persons working in the field of forensic science.

SUGGESTIONS FOR CONTRIBUTORS

The Newsletter includes the following regular features:

1. Correspondence and inquiries (letters)
2. Methodological notes (bench top)
3. Abstracts of papers presented at NWAFS meetings
4. Short technical reports
5. Case reports
6. Employment opportunities
7. News of meetings, schools, workshops, training opportunities
8. Legal news
9. Editorials

Contributions should be titled, include author credits and any pertinent references. The contributions should be typed, single spaced, on plain white paper and compacted as much as possible.

Submit all contributions to the Newsletter Editor:

George K. Matsuda
Oregon State Police Crime Laboratory
1111 S.W. 2nd Avenue, Room 1201
Portland, OR 97204

The Newsletter is published four times a year. Contributions should be submitted by February 1, May 1, August 1 and November 1, each year.

Arnold Melnikoff
Montana State Criminal
Investigation Laboratory
275 West Front Street
Missoula Montana 59801